

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Introduction**

By the present Amendment, claims 11, 13, and 15 have been amended. Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled. Claim 19 is newly presented for consideration. Accordingly, claims 11-16 and 19 are now pending in the application. Claims 11, 13, 15, and 19 are independent.

### **II. Office Action Summary**

In the Office Action of November 21, 2005, claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 USC §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,798,976 issued to Tsumagari, et al. ("Tsumagari"), in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0031131 issued to Fukai, et al. ("Fukai"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

### **III. Interview**

Applicants would like to thank Examiners Shibrur and Chevalier for the cooperation and courtesy extended during the interview of February 24, 2006.

### **IV. Rejections under 35 USC §101**

Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 USC §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Regarding this rejection, the Office Action indicates that claims 11-14 only recite a recording medium that contains stream files and play list files. The claims were therefore considered to be directed solely to a data structure because they did not define any structural or functional interrelationship between the data structure and other claimed aspects of the invention.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 11 and 13, in part, to address the issues raised in the Office Action under §101. Specifically, these claims have been amended to first specify that the information on the recording medium is destined for reproduction on one or more output devices. Further, the claims indicate that the still pictures stored as data on the recording medium are reproduced on the one or more output devices.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 11-14 now satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §101.

**V. Rejections under 35 USC §103**

Claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsumagari in view of Fukai. Regarding this rejection, the Office Action indicates that Tsumagari discloses an information reproducing method for reproducing still picture information from a recording medium on which stream files, including still pictures, are recorded. The Office Action also indicates that Tsumagari discloses play list files which order the still pictures to be played. The Office Action admits, however, that Tsumagari does not specifically disclose play list files with one or more play items wherein each of the play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time and end information indicating a presentation end time for a still picture. Fukai is relied upon for disclosing start times and stop times of scenes recorded on the storage medium.

As amended, independent claim 11 defines a recording medium on which still picture information is recorded for subsequent reproduction on one or more output devices. The recording medium comprises:

stream files including still pictures;

play list files which order still pictures to be played; and  
play list marks that correspond to the still pictures;  
wherein:

- each of said play list files has one or more play items,
- each of said play items corresponds to one or more still pictures, each of said play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time and end information indicating a presentation end time for a still picture, and each of said play items indicates a presentation time of the still picture,
- each play list mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture, and
- the still picture is reproduced on the one or more output devices.

According to independent claim 1, the recording medium contains stream files that include still pictures, play list files that order the still pictures to be played, and play list marks that correspond to the still pictures. Additionally, each play list file has one or more play items, and each of the play items corresponds to one or more still pictures. Each play item includes start information indicating a presentation start time and end information indicating a presentation end time for a still picture. Each play item further indicates a presentation time of the still picture. As further recited in claim 11, each play list mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture. The still picture information contained on the recording medium is subsequently reproduced on the output devices.

It was previously indicated that Tsumagari discloses cell information that can contain movie cell information or still picture cell information, as illustrated in Fig. 22. However, Tsumagari only discloses that the cell information can contain movie cell information or still picture cell information. See column 18, lines 32-38. Tsumagari does not appear to provide any discussions on play list marks and their correspondence to the individual still pictures. In contrast, independent claim 11 has

been amended to specifically recite that the recording medium further contains play list marks that correspond to the still pictures. Additionally, each play list mark is specifically associated with only one corresponding still picture. Tsumagari does not appear to provide any such correspondence between play list marks and still pictures. Further, Fukai also fails to provide any disclosure or suggestion for such an arrangement.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that, as amended, independent claim 11 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 12 depends from independent claim 11, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 11. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently renders it patentable over the art of record.

Independent claim 13 defines a recording medium in which still picture information is recordable for reproduction on one or more output devices. The recording medium contains:

- stream files including still pictures;
- play list files which order still pictures to be played; and
- play list marks that correspond to the still pictures;

wherein:

- each of said play list files has one or more play items,
- each of said play items corresponds to one or more still pictures, each of said play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time and end information indicating a presentation end time for a still picture, and each of said play items indicates a presentation time of the still picture,

- each play list mark is associated with one corresponding play item and one still picture included in the corresponding play item, and

- the still picture is reproduced on the one or more output devices.

Similar to independent claim 11, the recording medium of independent claim 13 includes play list marks that correspond to the still pictures. However, the play list marks are associated with only one corresponding play item and only one still picture is included in the corresponding play item.

As previously discussed with respect to independent claim 11, the cited references do not appear to provide any disclosure or suggestion for play list marks that include a one-to-one correspondence with individual still pictures. Furthermore, none of the references provide the additional limitation that the play list marks are associated with only one corresponding play item.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 13 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 14 depends from independent claim 13, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 13. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

Independent claim 15 defines an information reproducing method for reproducing still picture information from a recording medium. The recording medium contains play list marks that correspond to the still pictures, and each play list mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture and only one corresponding play list. The method comprises the steps:

- detecting said start information and said end information;
- and
- controlling said presentation time of said still pictures in accordance with said detected start and end information.

As previously discussed, the cited references do not appear to disclose a configuration wherein the recording medium includes play list marks that are associated with only one corresponding still picture and only one corresponding still picture.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 15 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 16 depends from independent claim 15, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 15. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

Independent claim 19 is newly presented and recites features that are somewhat similar to those recited in independent claim 11. More particularly, Independent claim 19 recites that each play list mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture.

Independent claim 19 further recites the limitation that each play item is associated with only one corresponding still picture. As discussed during the interview, this particular feature did not appear to be disclosed or suggested by Tsumagari.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 19 is allowable over the art of record.

## **VI. Conclusion**

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.


If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

**AUTHORIZATION**

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.43142X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 21, 2006